

Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 - 5:30 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

In attendance: Chair-Zach Mulholland, Vice-Chair- Mtima Richardson, Howard Saxion, Art Farley, Laura Allen, Louisa de Heer, Karyn Kaplan, Mike McFarlane, Doug Edwards, Councilor Emily Semple, Drew Johnson and Kelsey Zlevor

Staff: Chelsea Clinton, Samantha Roberts

Call to Order:

Chair Mulholland called the meeting to order.

Chair Mulholland introduced new ESC Commissioner Mike McFarlane. Commissioner McFarlane provided an introduction.

Action Item: Approve Agenda

Moved: Karyn Kaplan

Seconded: Mtima Richardson

Vote: All in favor

Opposed:

Abstain: Mike McFarlane

Chair Mulholland called for a motion to approve January minutes or request for discussion.

Action Item: Approved January Minutes

Moved: Howard Saxion

Seconded: Art Farley

Vote: All in Favor

Abstain: Mike McFarlane

Public Comment

Jim Neu, 350Eugene, thanked the Commission for fund list for Climate Action Plan and expressed hope that the Council would heed recommendations.

Jeannine Parisi, EWEB, spoke about the recent electricity study conducted by EWEB. Jeannine spoke about future studies moving forward into the future. Jeannine also spoke about EWEB's support for HB 2995.

Commissioner Response to Public Comment

Commissioner Allen requested clarification of Jeannine where EWEB's support exists in the 100% clean energy bill. Jeannine provided a response.

Presentation: City of Eugene, Legislative Affairs

Ethan Nelson, Intergovernmental Relations Manager for the City of Eugene, provided an update for the Commission regarding legislation the City of Eugene is tracking and/or supporting, especially as they

pertain to sustainability and climate recovery. Ethan also discussed the most recent presentation to City Council regarding Northwest Natural Gas Franchise Agreement negotiations progress.

Chair Mulholland inquired who is on the Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Staff provided an answer including where the community can find more information at the City's website.

Chair Mulholland inquired of staff if bills of ESC interest on are the City Council's radar, as well as what the process would be to communicate bills of interest to the IGR or City Council. Staff provided clarification.

Commissioner Kaplan expressed appreciation for Ethan's work. Commissioner Kaplan discussed thoughts on expressing support for what was LC 258 and which has since been updated. Expressed appreciation the City is already expressing support for that legislation. Staff provided clarification.

Commissioner de Heer inquired about the hydrogen property tax bill as well as whether "priority one" bills are those that the City is committed to, or only those for which staff are following. Staff provided clarification about both questions.

Chair Mulholland inquired as to whether the City of Eugene was involved with the creation of Governor Brown's Executive Order 20-04, or other related EO's. Staff provided clarification about the City's place in state policy making processes.

Commissioner Kaplan inquired about discussions related to underground electric utilities, referencing work being done in Eugene. Staff provided clarification about various aspects of the topic. Commissioner Kaplan furthered inquired about potential funding related to this work related to the Green New Deal. Staff provided clarification about this process.

Committee Updates

Commissioner de Heer introduced and discussed proposal to approve work product Air Quality Committee.

Commissioner Allen thanked Commissioner de Heer and group for their work on this committee, especially intersectional issues.

Commissioner Saxion discussed concerns about recommendation to assign a city staff person to track Cleaner Air Oregon. Discussed option to have Intergovernmental Relations staff manage Cleaner Air Oregon efforts locally. Discussed support for recommendation of reducing opacity of wood stoves and related questions of enforcement and possible reductions. Discussed support for the City to focus on education for community members using wood stoves for primary heating or aesthetics. Discussed enforcement for City ordinance related to maintaining 40% opacity of woodstoves in City limits. Requested formatting changes for recommendations.

Commissioner de Heer provided clarification to Commission Saxion's comments.

Councilor Semple expressed appreciation for Commission Saxion's comments as well as for the committee's work. Discussed appreciation for solution-based focus.

Chair Mulholland provided thoughts related to formatting changes.

Action Item: Approve Air Quality Committee Recommendations with formatting changes as discussed

Moved: Karyn Kaplan

Seconded: Art Farley

Vote: All in favor

Abstain: Mtima Richardson, Howard Saxion

Chair Mulholland introduced proposal to approve updated bylaws produced by the Rules Revision Committee.

Commissioner Allen discussed accessibility and budget concerns. Commission discussed making changes accordingly.

Action Item: Approve updated Bylaws from Rules Revision Committee

Moved: Laura Allen

Seconded: Kelsey Zlevor

Vote: All in favor

Abstain: Mike McFarlane

Commissioner Allen introduced and discussed the proposal to approve work product from the CAP2.0 Funding Strategies Committee.

Commissioner Farley discussed thoughts about work on the committee.

Councilor Semple discussed support for funds proposed.

Action Item: Approve CAP2.0 Funding Strategies Committee Recommendations

Moved: Louisa de Heer

Seconded: Doug Edwards

Vote: All in favor

Opposed:

Abstain:

Work Plan Update

Staff provided an update for the Commission regarding FY21 work plan progress. Commissioners discussed progress and current committee work to date as well as priorities moving into the last few months of the fiscal year.

Chair Mulholland requested of the Commission if there are items commissioners feel a strong desire to accomplish before the end of the year. He highlighted areas he'd like to focus and discussed areas to explore with Commissioners. The Commission discussed the workplan to date.

Legislative Support

Chair Mulholland discussed his request for Commissioner support for a Eugene Sustainability Commission 100% Clean Energy Resolution.

Commissioners discussed approving support for this resolution.

Action Item: Approve Proposal to Support ESC 100% Clean Energy Resolution

Moved: Zach Mulholland

Seconded: Kelsey Zlevor

Vote: All in favor

Opposed:

Abstain:

Staff Updates

Staff reminded commissioners about upcoming reappointments for Commissioners whose terms will expire June 2021 and let them know about their process for reappointments.

Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Zlevor discussed work with Education and Outreach committee and efforts forthcoming at March meeting. Committee members discussed thoughts about the commission.

Staff expressed thoughts about how money can be allocated from FY21 and thoughts about allocations for FY22.

Commissioner de Heer discussed work with River Road/Santa Clara neighborhood organization with the City and County related to items for further research on the Commission's work plan, especially related to resiliency.

Chair Mulholland reminded Commissioners about upcoming Budget Committee meetings.

Council Communications and Updates

Councilor Semple discussed upcoming work of the City Council.

Closing

Commissioner Mulholland provided closing remarks and adjourned the meeting.